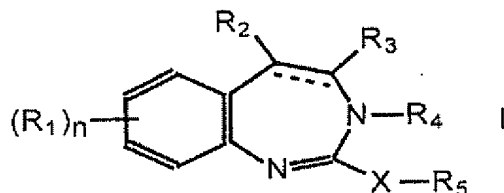


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A benzodiazepine compound of formula I:



in which

the dashed lines indicate the possible presence of a double bond;

R<sub>1</sub> represents optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)alkyl, optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)alkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxyl or (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl, which is optionally substituted with optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)alkyl, optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy, halogen, nitro or hydroxyl;

n represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> represent, independently of each other, hydrogen; optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)alkyl; (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)alkoxy; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; heteroaryl; heteroaryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryloxy; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy; heteroaryloxy; or heteroaryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy; in which the aryl and heteroaryl portions of these radicals are optionally substituted with halogen, optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy, optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl, nitro or hydroxyl;

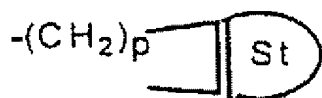
~~X represents S, O or NT in which T represents a hydrogen atom, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)arylecarbonyl;~~

R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> together form a group -CR<sub>6</sub>=CR<sub>7</sub>- in which CR<sub>6</sub>

is linked to X;

R<sub>6</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)alkyl; (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)cycloalkyl; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl; carboxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; heteroaryl; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; or heteroaryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; in which the aryl and heteroaryl portions of these radicals are optionally substituted with (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro, halogen or di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy-phosphoryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl;

R<sub>7</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; hydroxyl; di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)alkyl; carboxyl; carboxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with amino; (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl; heteroaryl; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; heteroaryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl fused to an unsaturated heterocycle, optionally substituted on the heterocycle portion with oxo; or (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)cycloalkyl; in which the aryl and heteroaryl portions of these radicals optionally being substituted with (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl, which (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl radical is optionally substituted with halogen, optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy or nitro; in which the aryl, heterocycle, cycloalkyl and heteroaryl portions of these radicals are optionally substituted with halogen; hydroxyl; hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy; optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy; carboxyl; (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl; nitro; cyano; cyano(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)alkyl; (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)alkylcarbonyloxy; (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkylene; (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkylenedioxy; (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkylthio; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)arylthio optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkylamino; a group of formula:



in which p = 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and in which St represents (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl; -alk-Cy-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-Ar in which alk represents (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl, Cy represents (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su and Ar represents (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; -Cy-alk-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-Ar; -alk-Cy; -alk-Cy-alk'-NH-CO-alk'' in which alk' and alk'' represent, independently, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxyphosphoryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryloxy optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)arylcarbonyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)arylsulphonyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy in which the aryl portion is optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; saturated heterocycle optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su;

Su is hydroxyl, halogen, cyano, nitro, optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl or optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy;

or alternatively R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> together form a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkylene chain optionally interrupted with a nitrogen atom which is optionally substituted with (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl or (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl, the ring formed by CR<sub>6</sub>=CR<sub>7</sub> optionally being fused to (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)aryl, the aryl portions of these radicals optionally being substituted with halogen, nitro, hydroxyl, optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkyl or optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy ~~(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkoxy~~; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof with an acid or base,

wherein the compounds having the following substituents are

excluded: X = S; n = 0; R<sub>2</sub> represents methyl and R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; and R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> together form a group -CR<sub>6</sub>=CR<sub>7</sub>- in which CR<sub>6</sub> is linked to X, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> together form a -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>- chain or alternatively R<sub>6</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a propyl group and R<sub>7</sub> is a phenyl group optionally substituted with -OCH<sub>3</sub> or a hydroxyl group.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl group optionally substituted with halogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, nitro or hydroxyl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein n is 0 or 1 and R<sub>1</sub> represents a halogen atom.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein

~~X represents S;~~

R<sub>6</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, carboxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkoxycarbonyl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, or (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl, that is optionally substituted with halogen, hydroxyl, nitro, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy; and

R<sub>7</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; hydroxyl; di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)alkyl; (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl; heteroaryl; (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; the aryl and heteroaryl portions of these radicals optionally being substituted with (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl, halogen, hydroxyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl, which (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl radical is optionally

substituted with halogen, optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy or nitro; or alternatively

R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> together form an alkylene chain interrupted with a nitrogen atom optionally substituted with (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl in which the aryl portion is optionally substituted with halogen, optionally halogenated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, hydroxyl or nitro.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~Compound~~  
~~according to Claim 1~~, which is

3-(biphenyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

3-(2-furyl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

3-[4-(ethoxycarbonyl)phenyl]-5,6-dihydrothiazolo-[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

3-(biphenyl-3-yl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

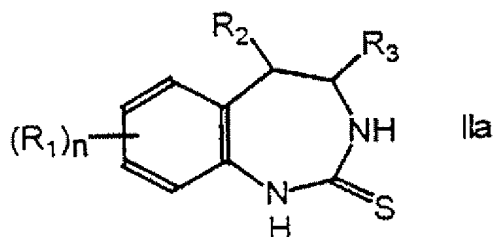
3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine; or

3-(biphenyl-4-yl)-7-chloro-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine,

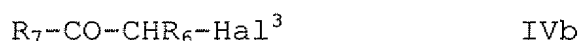
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula I according to Claim 1, in which X represents S, comprising reacting a thione of formula IIa:



in which  $n$ ,  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are as defined in Claim 1, with an  $\alpha$ -halo ketone of formula IVb:



in which  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are as defined in Claim 1, and  $Hal^3$  represents a halogen atom, in a  $C_2-C_6$  aliphatic carboxylic acid, at a temperature of 90 to  $130^\circ C$ .

13. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 12, wherein the aliphatic carboxylic acid is acetic acid.

14. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 12, wherein the temperature is maintained at 100 to  $125^\circ C$ .

15-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for treating dyslipidaemia, atherosclerosis or diabetes ~~or complications thereof~~, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof

an effective amount of a compound according to claim 8 ~~claim 1~~.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method for treating dyslipidaemia, atherosclerosis or diabetes, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

22. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the reaction is at a temperature of 60 to 100°C.

23. (Currently Amended) A compound, which is  
3-(biphenyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;  
3-(2-furyl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;  
3-[4-(ethoxycarbonyl)phenyl]-5,6-dihydrothiazolo-[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;  
~~1-(2-furyl)-2-(4,5-dihydro-3H-1,3-benzodiazepine-2-ylsulphamyl)ethanone;~~  
~~1-(biphenyl-4-yl)-2-(4,5-dihydro-3H-1,3-benzodiazepine-2-ylsulphamyl)ethanone;~~  
3-(biphenyl-3-yl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;  
~~1-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2-(4,5-dihydro-3H-1,3-benzodiazepine-2-ylsulphamyl)ethanone;~~  
3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine; or  
3-(biphenyl-4-yl)-7-chloro-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for treating dyslipidaemia, atherosclerosis or diabetes, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 23.

25. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 6, wherein R<sub>6</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, carboxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl.